

'W.H.' a Boy Actor, Wilde's Theory

Shakespeare Dedicated
Sonnets to Him

"Lost Manuscript" Story Told by
Mitchell Kennerley—Says It
Is "Hard to Cash"

To find suddenly in his possession Oscar Wilde's "lost manuscript," "The Portrait of Mr. W. H.," was like having a million dollar banknote, said Mitchell Kennerley of the Anderson Galleries, 439 Park Avenue, when he displayed the 186 precious pages today. "In other words, it couldn't be cashed," said Mr. Kennerley.

What he inferred was that possession of the script meant nothing without permission from the Wilde estate to publish it. The narration of his efforts to obtain this permission and the sheer incredulity with which his letters were met, are of unusual interest. The theory Wilde presents in this book is that the mysterious Mr. W. H., to whom was dedicated Shakespeare's book of sonnets, was a boy-player for whom Shakespeare wrote the parts of Viola, Imogen, Rosalind, and Portia. Then he proceeds to discover the name of this actor, relying on certain passages and the playings on words they contain, which gives him the name Will Hughes.

The controversy surrounding the identity of Mr. W. H. is an old one, springing from the following dedication inscribed in the original edition of the sonnets: "To The Onlie Beggetter Of These ensuing Sonnets Mr. W. H. All Happiness And That Eternitie Promised By Our Ever-Living Poet William Shakespear." The last two letters are the initials of Thomas Thorpe, the publisher of the first edition of the sonnets.

There has been a multitude of opinions as to the identity of Mr. W. H. Some men of literature even have believed the letters to be a misprint for W. R. L. e. William Shakespeare, or that they should read Mr. W. Hall, or Mr. William Hathaway, that they stand for Mr. Henry Willobie, a poet, with the initials reversed, and one German commentator went so far as to assert the letters connoted "Mr. William Himself." But the consensus of opinion has inclined to the linking of the two letters to the name of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, though there were yet others who believed they referred to the Earl of Southampton.

Wilde, however, by an ingenious stroke, presumably disposed of the claims of all these gentlemen, and as far as the two peers are concerned he adduced from the sonnets what he holds to be proof that Shakespeare's Mr. W. H. was of lowly birth.

Tells of Forged Picture

Another thing of interest in the weaving into this story of the existence of a forged picture of Mr. W. H. is a Will Hughes, painted in a style that reminded one of Francois Clouet's later work. "It was a full-length portrait of a young man in late sixteenth-century costume, standing by a table, with his right hand resting on an open book. The black velvet doublet with its fantastically gilded points, and the peacock-blue background against which it showed up so pleasantly, and from which it gained such luminous value of color, were quite in Clouet's style; and the two snakes of Tragery and Comedy that hung somewhat formally from the marble pedestal had that hard severity of touch—so different from the facile grace of the Italians—which even at the Court of France the great Fleming master never completely lost, and which in itself has always been a characteristic of the northern temper. This painted figure rests one hand upon a book; and with a magnifying glass the author and one of the fictional characters are able to discern upon the book the words of the dedication of the sonnets.

Mr. Kennerley, who is to publish the manuscript now in his possession, regards as the outstanding peculiarity of the picture the fact that the "lost manuscript" not that it turned up in New York City, but that it should have been lost for twenty-six years without being destroyed.

Script Not Received

Some years after Wilde's arrest, after the crushing scandal attached to his name had been tempered by time and it was realized that whatever his character Wilde had been indisputably a man of letters and a literary artist, search was made for the missing script. But the publishing house of Messrs. Elkin Mathews and John Lane reported that the manuscript was returned to Wilde's house in Tite Street, Chelsea, and after a thorough search there it was concluded that the manuscript had been lost. From the circumstances that brought the "lost manuscript" into the hands of Mr. Kennerley he is able to place together all available information, and his conclusion is that the script was never received by the publisher.

According to Mr. Kennerley it was the custom at that time to announce forthcoming publications oftentimes before the manuscript had been fairly begun. There is no doubt now that Wilde gave the manuscript to a literary friend, and asked him to prepare it for the printer, for it was in the house of this friend who died, that the lost script was found. The surviving sister of this literary friend came across the yellowed package of folio pages only last July, and, being in doubt as to their significance, they were sent to Mr. Kennerley, who straightway recognized their import.

"That it was like having a million-dollar bank note—it couldn't be cashed," said Mr. Kennerley. "Although one may possess a man's writings, one cannot legally publish them without permission of the author, or, if he be dead, from his executor."

Accordingly, he addressed a letter to the collector who represented Oscar Wilde's son, the author's executor, and informed him of the nature of the manuscript he held. The collector replied that it couldn't be so; the manuscript Mr. Kennerley possessed must be that of the short essay which appeared in Blackwood's Magazine. The reason? Because the larger manuscript had been lost, it had been missing for twenty-six years, it was irretrievably gone.

Mr. Kennerley wrote again, but his suggestions again fell upon incredulous ears. He wrote a third time in no uncertain words, and insisted he knew what he was talking about, and at last succeeded in convincing a legal British mind that he held the "lost manuscript." The upshot of these negotiations was that Mr. Kennerley agreed to give to the Wilde estate a copy of the manuscript and the full British copyright, and in return re-

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ceived the American copyright. Oscar Wilde's son, whose present name cannot be divulged, further agreed through his solicitor to withhold publication in England until thirty days after the appearance of the book in America.

This is the complete story of the "lost manuscript." "It's great fun," says Mr. Kennerley.

Holds On to His Money

Chinese Restaurant Keeper Suffers
Fracture of Skull, However

Just after Lee Ling Tom, who conducts a chop suey restaurant at 1504 Third Avenue, had completed counting the day's receipts, about \$112, this morning, two men entered and demanded that he hand over the money, which he had placed in a small canvas bag. Instead, he gripped the bag more firmly and yelled for help. One of the men struck him on the head with a piece of lead pipe. The Chinese continued to shout and was struck a second blow. The two men escaped. The Chinese was taken to Metropolitan Hospital suffering from fracture of the skull.

Sails for Museum Specimens

George K. Cherrie of the American Museum of Natural History sailed today on the steamer Colon of the Panama Steamship line for South America, where he will collect specimens and carry on investigations in natural history for the museum.

To Discuss Social Work

Twenty Societies Represented at National Conference in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, June 20.—Almost every phase of social work known will be taken up and discussed during the week of June 22 to 29 at the forty-eighth annual meeting of the National Conference of Social Work and its affiliated bodies here. No fewer than twenty societies, departments, or associations will hold meetings either prior to or during the week of this convention and thousands are expected to attend the various sessions.

Nurse Injured in Fall

Mrs. S. M. Wallington, fifty-eight years old, a graduate nurse, of 93 Danforth Avenue, Jersey City, was taken to Bellevue Hospital yesterday from the Hotel McAlpin, after she was found unconscious at the bottom of a flight of stairs down which she had fallen. It was thought she suffered an attack of vertigo.

Want Place in Supreme Court

Many After Nominations in Second District

Little Credence Given Report That Hylan Might Accept One of Positions

One of the hottest contests in the approaching fall campaign is expected to center around two vacancies on the Supreme Court bench of the Second Judicial District, which includes Long Island counties and Richmond. Already there are many candidates, and it is said that Mayor John F. Hylan, if the opportunity presented itself, would like to turn from the turmoil of a Mayoralty race to the comparative quiet of a place on the bench if he thought he could win.

In fact, it is reported in the political circles of Brooklyn that some of the Mayor's friends have put out "feelers" looking towards the possibility of a fusion between Republicans and Democrats, in which the Mayor would be a candidate for one of the positions on the bench. Little credence is given the rumor, however, for it is realized that Hylan's attempt to carry the outlying counties included in the district would be futile. It is also said to be unthinkable that the Republicans, despite such a fusion which would probably insure the election of their own candidate, would agree to the endorsement of Hylan for any position.

Justice Frank S. Gannon of Richmond, who was appointed by Gov. Nathan L. Miller a few months ago upon the resignation of Justice Albert F. Jenks is already preparing to run

again. The other vacancy will come this summer when Justice Harrington Putnam reaches the retirement age. Harry E. Lewis, District Attorney of Kings County, W. B. Pettit of Nassau County, and Jeremiah Wood, Lieutenant Governor, are mentioned as some of the possible Republican candidates for the vacancy that will be created by Justice Putnam's retirement.

Mr. Wood, it is said, has had his eyes on a Supreme Court Justiceship for some time and is said to have played the game cleverly in an attempt to shape circumstances so that they would be favorable to him. At present Nassau County, where Mr. Wood resides, has no Supreme Court Justices, despite the fact that a demand for representation on the bench has been made several times. If a Nassau County man were on the bench it would naturally present some obstacles to the ambitions of another Nassau County man who had a desire to wear the robe.

Many Sought Places

When Justice Jenks resigned there were many seeking the appointment, including Mr. Lewis, Mr. Pettit, and

Justice Gannon. Jacob A. Livingston, Republican leader of Kings County, presented the name of Mr. Lewis, but in such a way, it is said, that there was little chance of his being appointed. Then Ralph Thompson, Richmond County leader, began to urge Justice Gannon's appointment. Other recommendations poured in, with the result that Gov. Miller sought the advice of the Lieutenant Governor as to the situation in this corner of the State.

Mr. Wood is said to have explained

to the Governor that Nassau County didn't need a Supreme Court Justice, for geographical reasons solely, as much as Richmond did. Nassau County lawyers, he is said to have told the Governor, can quickly reach a Justice in Queens or Brooklyn or Suffolk, whereas Richmond County lawyers were more isolated.

So other things being equal, the appointment went to Justice Gannon and Nassau County is still without a Supreme Court Justice. If Mr. Wood should decide that the time was ripe for his candidacy for the bench this

fall, he or his supporters will be to advance the old argument that Nassau County ought to be represented on the bench.

National City Bank Opens Branch

The uptown branch of the National City Bank, at Forty-second Street, Madison Avenue, was opened today. Banking offices have been established on the ground floor of the building, while the remainder of the structure contains general offices.

JUMPING the Hedge of Convention

She was ready for her bath. The kindly old head priest stood by the side of her tub in her temple lodgings near the Hall of Ten Thousand Lamps.

An American woman, on a "Summer Pilgrimage to Sacred Koyas," tells how she handled this and other gently delicate situations in a country of unconventional conventions in the July

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A Special Purchase of Moiré Taffeta Ribbon
(6 1/4 inches wide)
will be placed on sale to-morrow (Tuesday) morning
at the extraordinarily low price of
58c. per yard

This ribbon is of eminently desirable quality, and will serve many useful and decorative purposes during the Summer, being equally suitable for dress and hat trimmings, and children's sashes and hair ribbons. There is a large selection of the wanted colors, as well as all-white and all-black.

(Sale on the First Floor)

The Silk Bag Section
of the Jewelry Department is displaying a recently received importation (direct from Paris) of

French Wrist Bags
featuring the steel decorations that are now so much in demand among fashionable Parisiennes.

There are several handsome models in this interesting collection, some of them hand-crocheted and finished with a steel chain; others of silk, mounted on frames of tortoise-shell celluloid. All are richly embellished with steel beads. The colors are blue, green and brown, and there are also many striking effects in black.

The prices (in stock):
Crochet Bags \$7.50 to 15.00
Shell-frame Bags 12.50 to 15.00
War Revenue tax additional
(First Floor, Madison Avenue section)

Seasonable Bed Furnishings
will be on sale to-morrow at specially made concessions from regular prices.

White Blankets
60 pairs, cotton-and-wool, per pair \$4.75
40 pairs, cotton-and-wool, per pair 6.75
30 pairs, wool-and-cotton, per pair 8.50
80 pairs, wool-and-cotton, per pair 11.50

Silkoline Comfortables
cotton-filled each \$3.95

Crochet Bedspreads
hemmed each \$2.25

Fancy White Bedspreads (light-weight)
Size 2 x2 3/4 yards each \$3.25
Size 2 1/2 x2 3/4 yards each 4.25

Muslin Sheets and Pillow Cases
at equally attractive prices
(Fourth Floor, Madison Avenue section)

A Clearance Sale of Women's White Footwear
is now in progress on the Second Floor
The size ranges are not complete, and for this reason (and solely for this reason) these Shoes have been marked at prices that warrant a speedy disposal. The models are smart and seasonable in every particular.

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Special for to-morrow
An Important Sale of 6,000 Men's Summer Negligee Shirts
(all soft-cuff models) made of printed madras and fine percale
offering extraordinary value at
\$1.35 each
On sale at the same time will be
300 Dozen Batwing Ties
made of fine-quality imported and American silks, presenting a large variety of smart patterns and color effects; freshly taken from stock and marked, for clearance, at the greatly reduced price of
85c. each
(This Sale will be held on the First Floor)